

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

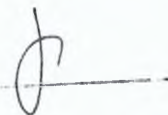
SECRET
Office of the Secretary of the Senate

'22 JUL 13 AIO :16

SENATE

S. No. 468

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Introduced by SENATOR JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

AN ACT

STRENGTHENING THE CITIZEN ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES, REINSTITUTING FOR THE PURPOSE A MANDATORY RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS (ROTC) PROGRAM IN THE CURRICULUM OF ALL UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE, DIPLOMA, CERTIFICATE OR TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE TERTIARY-LEVEL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 4 of the 1987 Constitution provides that, "The prime duty of the Government is to serve and protect the people. The Government may call upon the people to defend the State, and, in the fulfillment thereof, all citizens may be required, under conditions provided by law, to render personal, military or civil service."

Republic Act No. 7077, otherwise known as the "Citizen Armed Force or Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservist Act" was signed into law on June 27, 1991. Section 38 of the law provides for the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) which makes mandatory the military training for students enrolled in colleges, universities and similar institutions of learning to produce enlisted and officer reservists. In furtherance thereof, ROTC units were established in such institutions as approved by the Secretary of National Defense. It is composed of basic ROTC composed of the first two (2) years of training which is mandatory, and advanced ROTC composed of the second two (2) years of training which is voluntary.

There were many loopholes in the implementation of the law and abuses in the exercise of power of officers in authority were reported. Moreover, a significant number of students evade the ROTC by securing documents certifying that they are unfit for the training.

To address these concerns, Republic Act No. 9163, otherwise known as the "National Service Training Program (NSTP) Act of 2001" was enacted into law and made ROTC one of the components of the NSTP, together with Literacy Training Service and Civic Welfare Training Service. In effect, ROTC became optional for students, male and female, of any baccalaureate degree course or at least two (2)-year technical vocational courses in public and private educational institutions.

However, it has been emphasized that ROTC training is imperative for the Filipino youth because it not only provides them with the necessary skills not only in military aspect but more importantly in disaster preparedness and response to calamities. The discipline and proper attitude that the training imbibes in the students are also part of the life skills that will be helpful to them in all aspects of their lives.

The "*Revitalized Reserve Officers' Training Corps Act*" seeks to reinstitute the ROTC as a mandatory component in the curriculum of all undergraduate degree, diploma, certificate or technical-vocational programs in public and private tertiary-level educational institutions. The Secretary of the Department of National Defense is mandated to provide guidelines on the program which shall include three (3) components which are (1) Training on External and Territorial Defense; (2) Training on Internal Security, Peace and Order, and Public Safety; and (3) Training on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management. The measure seeks to allow the government to organize and maintain a pool of capable reservists who are equipped to respond to the exigencies of hostilities, crises, calamities, and other contingencies in the national and local levels.

To ensure compliance with the law and prevention of abuses of authority, the bill provides for the maximum penalty for acts or omissions punishable under existing laws such as hazing, bribery and extortion, graft and corruption, or sexual harassment.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is highly recommended.


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

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STRENGTHENING THE CITIZEN ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES,
REINSTITUTING FOR THE PURPOSE A MANDATORY RESERVE OFFICERS'
TRAINING CORPS (ROTC) PROGRAM IN THE CURRICULUM OF ALL
UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE, DIPLOMA, CERTIFICATE OR TECHNICAL-
VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE TERTIARY-LEVEL
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

ARTICLE I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1
2
3 Section 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "*Revitalized Reserve*
4 *Officers' Training Corps Act*".

5 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
6 recognize the vital role of the youth in nation-building, to promote and protect their
7 physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being, to inculcate unto them
8 the value of patriotism, and to encourage their involvement in public and civic
9 affairs. Towards this end, the State shall educate, train, equip, and organize the
10 youth sector into a capable pool of reserve officers by reinstating a mandatory
11 Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) Program in the curriculum of all
12 undergraduate degree, diploma or certificate programs in all public and private
13 tertiary-level educational institutions in the country, allowing the State to organize
14 and maintain a pool of capable reservists ready to respond to the exigencies of

1 hostilities, crises, calamities, and other contingencies both in the national and local
2 levels.

3 **ARTICLE II**

4 **RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS PROGRAM**

5 *Sec. 3. Reinstitution of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps Program.* – The
6 ROTC Program is hereby reinstated as a mandatory component in the curriculum of
7 all undergraduate degree, diploma or certificate programs in public and private
8 tertiary-level educational institutions in the country.

9 *Sec. 4. Coverage.* – All students enrolled in undergraduate degree, diploma
10 or certificate programs in public and private tertiary-level educational institutions in
11 the country shall be required to undergo the ROTC Program.

12 *Sec. 5. Exemptions From Enrolment.* – Every student enrolled in
13 undergraduate degree, diploma or certificate programs in public and private tertiary-
14 level educational institutions shall be required to undergo the Basic ROTC Program
15 as provided in Section 7 of this Act, except for students with the following
16 circumstances:

- 17 a) Those who are physically or mentally unfit to render military duty as
18 certified by a military medical officer;
- 19 b) Those whose religious beliefs proscribe any aspect of military or national
20 service such as, but not limited to, using firearms and other deadly
21 weapons, training in warfare tactics and combat operations, or rendering
22 service in military and other similar institutions;
- 23 c) Those who have been convicted by final judgment of criminal offenses
24 involving moral turpitude;
- 25 d) Those foreign students enrolled in undergraduate degree, diploma or
26 certificate program offered by any tertiary-level educational institution in
27 the country;
- 28 e) Those who have undergone similar military training from a previous
29 degree, diploma, certificate or technical-vocational program; and,
- 30 f) Those with circumstances that may impede the realization of the
31 objectives of the ROTC Program as determined by the Department of
32 National Defense (DND).

1 The students with circumstances enumerated above, with the exception of
2 students with circumstances stipulated in item (e), shall undergo a Special National
3 Service Training Program as provided in Section 10 of this Act.

4 *Sec. 6. ROTC Units in Tertiary-Level Educational Institutions.* – All public and
5 private tertiary level educational institutions including Technical-Vocational
6 Institutions (TVIs) shall establish and maintain an ROTC Unit in their respective
7 campuses with the primary duty of implementing the Basic and Advanced ROTC
8 Program, and the Special National Service Training Program as provided for in this
9 Act: *Provided*, That the DND shall prescribe the minimum organization and staffing
10 patterns of ROTC Units.

11 *Sec. 7. Basic ROTC Training Program.* – A Basic ROTC Program shall be
12 established as a mandatory component in the curriculum of all undergraduate
13 degree, diploma or certificate programs in public and private tertiary-level
14 educational institutions in the country.

15 *Sec. 8. Components of Basic ROTC Program.* – Subject to a program of
16 instruction to be prescribed by the DND in coordination with other government
17 agencies concerned, the Basic ROTC Program shall have the following components:

- 18 a) Training on External and Territorial Defense;
- 19 b) Training on Internal Security, Peace and Order, and Public Safety; and,
- 20 c) Training on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management.

21 *Sec. 9. Advanced ROTC Training Program.* – An Advanced ROTC Program
22 shall be established which may be pursued by undergraduate degree students on a
23 voluntary basis. Students enrolled in the Advanced ROTC Program shall comprise
24 the Officer Corps of their respective ROTC Units and shall assist the DND in the
25 management and conduct of the ROTC Program within their respective educational
26 institutions.

27 The program of instruction for the Advanced ROTC Program shall be
28 prescribed by the DND in coordination with other government agencies concerned:
29 *Provided*, That the program of instruction shall include leadership and management
30 training to effectively administer the Basic ROTC Program: *Provided, further*, That
31 all prospective applicants shall complete an officer candidate qualifying course during

1 their respective Basic ROTC Program prior to their admission to the Advanced ROTC
2 Program.

3 Sec. 10. *Special National Service Training Program.* – The Special National
4 Service Training Program is hereby established as a substitute program for students
5 exempted from undertaking the ROTC Program as provided for in Section 5 of this
6 Act to comply with the ROTC requirement in their curriculum and complete their
7 undergraduate degree, diploma or certificate program.

8 The Special National Service Training Program shall include, but not be limited
9 to, the following components:

- 10 a) Literacy Training Service Program;
- 11 b) Civic Welfare Training Service Program; and,
- 12 c) Emergency Life Support Training Service Program.

13 The program of instruction for the Special National Service Training Program
14 shall be prescribed by the DND in consultation with the Commission on Higher
15 Education (CHED), Office of Civil Defense (OCD), Department of Social Welfare and
16 Development (DSWD) and other government agencies concerned.

17 Sec. 11. *Tuition Fees.* – Consistent with the provisions of Republic Act No.
18 10391, otherwise known as the “Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act”,
19 enrollment in Basic and Advanced ROTC Programs in all State Universities and
20 Colleges, Local Universities and Colleges, state-run TVIs and other public tertiary
21 level educational institutions shall be exempt from the payment of tuition and other
22 school fees: *Provided,* That the tuition and other school fees to be incurred in Basic
23 and Advanced ROTC Programs of qualified students enrolled in private tertiary-level
24 educational institutions may be charged from the Tertiary Education Subsidy as
25 provided for in Republic Act No. 10391, otherwise known as the “Universal Access to
26 Quality Tertiary Education Act”.

27 Sec. 12. *Benefits of Enrolment in the Advanced ROTC Programs.* – Students
28 enrolled in the Advanced ROTC Program shall, upon the approval of the Department
29 of Budget and Management (DBM) and in accordance with existing laws, rules and
30 regulations, be entitled to the following benefits:

- 31 a) Provision for military uniforms;

- 1 b) Free accommodation in university- or college-owned student residences or
2 dormitories, subject to availability of such facilities;
- 3 c) Fifty percent (50%) tuition subsidy for students enrolled in private
4 educational institutions belonging to the top 5% of their respective
5 academic class; and,
- 6 d) Other allowances, benefits and privileges that may be prescribed by the
7 DND, subject to availability of funds.

8 **ARTICLE III**

9 **CITIZEN MILITARY TRAINING**

10 Sec. 13. *Citizen Military Training.* – The DND shall continue to implement the
11 Citizen Military Training Program in accordance with Republic Act No. 7077, as
12 amended, otherwise known as the “Citizen Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservist
13 Act”.

14 **ARTICLE IV**

15 **RESERVE OFFICERS CORPS**

16 Sec. 14. *Reserve Officers Corps.* – There shall be a Reserve Officers Corps
17 composed of the following:

- 18 a) Graduates of Basic and Advanced ROTC Programs and the Special National
19 Service Training Program as provided in this Act: *Provided, That* foreign
20 individuals who completed the Special National Service Training Program
21 in accordance with Section 10 of this Act shall be excepted from becoming
22 members of the Reserve Officers Corps;
- 23 b) Graduates of previous military or national service training programs,
24 including:
- 25 i. Citizen Military Training as provided in Republic Act No. 7077, as
26 amended, otherwise known as the “Citizen Armed Forces of the
27 Philippines Reservist Act”;
- 28 ii. ROTC Programs as provided in Commonwealth Act No. 1, as
29 amended, otherwise known as “The National Defense Act”, and
30 Republic Act No. 7077, as amended, otherwise known as the
31 “Citizen Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservist Act”; and,

1 iii. National Service Training Program as provided in Republic Act No.
2 9163, otherwise known as the "National Service Training Program
3 (NSTP) Act of 2001".

4 Sec. 15. *Membership in the Reserve Officers Corps.* – All students who
5 complete the Basic and Advanced ROTC program and the Special National Service
6 Training Program shall receive an enlistment rank and a serial number.

7 Graduates of the Special National Service Training Program, with the
8 exception of foreign individuals who completed the program in accordance with this
9 Act, shall be automatically registered as members of the Reserve Officers Corps with
10 enlistment rank of private or its equivalent.

11 Graduates of the Basic ROTC Programs shall be automatically registered as
12 members of the Reserve Officers Corps with enlistment rank ranging from private to
13 sergeant or its equivalent: *Provided,* That conferment of ranks higher than private or
14 its equivalent shall be made based on merit: *Provided, further,* That graduates of the
15 Basic ROTC Program who opt to enroll in the Advanced ROTC Program shall carry
16 their enlistment rank until the completion of the same.

17 Graduates of the Advanced ROTC Program shall be automatically registered
18 as members of the Reserve Officers Corps with enlisted rank of sergeant and shall
19 be recommended for commission in the Reserve Officers Corps as second
20 lieutenants: *Provided,* That graduates of Advanced ROTC Program who manifest
21 potential may be commissioned as second lieutenants in the Regular Force and other
22 Uniformed Services subject to the qualifications and training requirements to be
23 determined by the Major Services of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP),
24 Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP),
25 and Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), and Philippine National Police (PNP).

26 Sec. 16. *Deployment of Reserve Officers.* – Reserve officers shall be
27 deployed in reserve units of the AFP, BFP, BJMP, PCG, PNP, and other government
28 agencies that may be identified by the Office of the President. The reserve officer
29 concerned shall be notified of the reserve officer's deployment in writing and shall be
30 provided with information relevant to the said deployment: *Provided,* That the DND
31 shall, in coordination with the AFP, BFP, BJMP, PCG, PNP and other government
32 agencies concerned, formulate criteria and guidelines in the deployment of members

1 of the Reserve Officers Corps: *Provided, further,* That the AFP, BFP, BJMP, PCG, and
2 PNP shall be responsible for the administration, equipage and maintenance of their
3 respective reserve units.

4 Sec. 17. *Duration of Membership in the Reserve Officers Corps.* – A reserve
5 officer shall remain a member of the Reserve Officers Corps until the age of forty
6 (40).

7 Sec. 18. *Accounting of Reserve Officers.* – To ensure the readiness of reserve
8 officers to the call of duty, the DND shall regularly update reserve officer’s records
9 and status. The DND may call on government agencies and reservists and veteran
10 organizations to assist in the accounting of reserve officers in accordance with
11 existing laws, rules and regulations.

12 **ARTICLE V**

13 **MOBILIZATION AND TRAINING OF RESERVE OFFICERS CORPS**

14 Sec. 19. *Mobilization of Reserve Officers Corps.* – The President of the
15 Philippines, acting as the Commander-in-Chief of all armed forces of the Philippines,
16 shall have the power to command full or partial mobilization of the Reserve Officers
17 Corps in case of a declaration of a state of war, state of lawless violence, or state of
18 calamity, and in response to national or local contingencies related to external and
19 territorial defense, internal security, peace and order, public safety, and disaster risk
20 reduction and management. The President shall have the authority to revert reserve
21 officers mobilized to active duty back to inactive status.

22 The Reserve Officers Corps may also be called upon and mobilized by the
23 President of the Philippines to assist government agencies and instrumentalities,
24 including local government units in their respective functions relation to external and
25 territorial defense, internal security, peace and order, public safety, and disaster risk
26 reduction and management.

27 The DND shall, in coordination with the AFP, BFP, BJMP, PCG, PNP and other
28 government agencies concerned, establish the necessary organizational structure
29 and operations procedures for mobilizing the Reserve Officers Corps in accordance
30 with the provisions of this Act and other existing laws, rules and regulations.

31 Sec. 20. *Status of Reservists during Mobilization.* – Reserve officers called to
32 active duty by virtue of mobilization shall be entitled to equivalent pay and

1 allowances, medical care, and other privileges and benefits prescribed by law or
2 regulations for officers and enlisted personnel in the Regular Force.

3 Sec. 21. *Training of Reserve Officers Corps.* – Reserve officers shall be
4 required to attend a periodic training program to enhance the readiness of individual
5 reserve officers and reserve units in responding to calls for mobilization. Each
6 reserve officer shall, depending on the reserve rank conferred, render training duty
7 during the incumbency of his or her membership in the Reserve Office Corps:
8 *Provided,* That the minimum duration of the training duty shall be as follows:

9	Reserve Soldier or Equivalent Rank	50 Training Days
10	Reserve Corporal or Equivalent Rank	60 Training Days
11	Reserve Sergeant or Equivalent Rank	70 Training Days
12	Reserve Technical Sergeant or Equivalent Rank	80 Training Days
13	Reserve Master Sergeant or Equivalent Rank	90 Training Days
14	Reserve First Lieutenant or Equivalent Rank	100 Training Days
15	Reserve Second Lieutenant or Equivalent Rank	110 Training Days
16	Reserve Captain or Equivalent Rank	120 Training Days
17	Reserve Major or Equivalent Rank	130 Training Days
18	Reserve Lieutenant Colonel or Equivalent Rank	140 Training Days
19	Reserve Colonel or Equivalent Rank	150 Training Days

20 *Provided, further,* That the training duty requirement shall be apportioned
21 throughout the entire incumbency of the reserve officer in the Reserve Officers
22 Corps in tranches of five (5) days: *Provided, finally,* That the program of instruction
23 for the training program, including the system to notify and recruit reserve officers
24 to fulfill their training duty obligation, shall be developed and implemented by the
25 AFP, BFP, BJMP, PCG, PNP for their respective reserve units.

26 Sec. 22. *Exemptions from Training.* – Every reserve officer shall be required
27 to undergo training as provided in Section 21 of this Act, except for reserve officers
28 with the following circumstances:

- 29 a) Those who are physically or mentally unfit to undergo training as certified
30 by a military medical officer;
- 31 b) Those whose religious beliefs proscribe any aspect of military or national
32 service such as, but not limited to, using firearms and other deadly

1 weapons, training or engaging in warfare tactics and combat operations,
2 or rendering service in military and other similar institutions;

3 c) Those who have been convicted by final judgment of criminal offenses
4 involving moral turpitude;

5 d) Those who are employed as uniformed personnel in the AFP, BFP, BJMP,
6 National Mapping and Resource Information Authority, PCG, and PNP;

7 e) Those who are employed as medical and allied medical professionals in
8 public hospitals and other similar public health facilities;

9 f) Those who are employed as social workers in national government
10 agencies and local government units;

11 g) Those who are employed as teachers in kindergarten, elementary and
12 secondary educational institutions; and,

13 h) Those who are engaged in employment or a profession involving the
14 delivery of basic health services, provision of emergency medical services,
15 preparation and response to disasters and calamities, and performance of
16 other vital services to be identified by the DND.

17 *Sec. 23. Employer Cooperation During Reserve Officer Mobilization and*
18 *Training.* – Every employer shall grant leave of absence to reserve officers when
19 called for mobilization or training in accordance with the provisions of this Act:
20 *Provided,* That the reserve officer concerned has been employed for a continuous
21 period of at least six (6) months: *Provided, further,* That reserve officers employed
22 for less than six (6) months under their present employer may request in writing a
23 deferment of mobilization or training until such time that the minimum employment
24 duration of six (6) months has been achieved.

25 No employer shall terminate the employment or forcibly retire a reserve
26 officer solely or mainly by reason of mobilization or training as provided for in this
27 Act: *Provided,* That an employer may terminate the employment or services of a
28 reserve officer if the contract of employment between the employer and the reserve
29 officer includes provisions terminating the contract after a pre-determined period of
30 employment, the completion of a specific objective, or the delivery of a specific
31 output or product.

1 For the purpose of this Act, a reserve officer terminated from employment
2 within three (3) months after the commencement of the reserve officer's
3 mobilization or training shall be presumed to have been terminated by reason of
4 such mobilization or training, unless the employer can provide proof that such
5 termination of employment was for a reason unconnected with the fulfillment of the
6 reserve officer's obligations under this Act.

7 **ARTICLE VI**

8 **PENAL PROVISIONS**

9 *Sec. 24. Failure to Respond to Mobilization Call.* – Failure of a reserve officer
10 to respond to the call for mobilization made after the declaration of a state of war or
11 lawless violence shall be punishable in accordance with the Articles of War, and
12 shall, upon conviction by a court-martial, be punishable by imprisonment of not less
13 than six (6) months but not more than two (2) years.

14 Failure to respond to the call for mobilization made after the declaration of a
15 state of calamity or during national or local contingencies related to internal security,
16 peace and order, public safety, or disaster risk reduction and management shall be
17 punishable by one hundred twenty (120) hours of community service to be
18 administered by the reserve unit of the erring reserve officer.

19 *Sec. 25. Failure to Grant Leave of Absence for Mobilization or Training.* –
20 Employers who shall deny leave of absence from a reserve officer being called for
21 mobilization or training shall be punished with a fine of not less than Fifty thousand
22 pesos (P50,000.00) nor more than Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) or
23 imprisonment of not less than one (1) month nor more than one (1) year, or both,
24 at the discretion of the court.

25 If the offense is committed by a corporation, trust, firm, partnership,
26 association or any other entity, the penalty shall be imposed upon the guilty officer
27 or officers of such corporation, trust, firm, partnership, association or entity.

28 *Sec. 26. Illegal Termination or Retirement of Reserve Officers.* – Employers
29 who shall terminate or forcible retire a reserve officer from employment solely or
30 mainly be reason of mobilization or training shall be punished with a fine of not less
31 than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) nor more than One million pesos

1 (P1,000,000.00) or imprisonment of not less than three (3) months nor more than
2 three (3) years, or both, at the discretion of the court.

3 If the offense is committed by a corporation, trust, firm, partnership,
4 association or any other entity, the penalty shall be imposed upon the guilty officer
5 or officers of such corporation, trust, firm, partnership, association or entity.

6 *Sec. 27. Offenses Punishable Under Existing Laws.* – For acts or omissions
7 punishable under existing laws such as, but not limited to: hazing, bribery and
8 extortion, graft and corruption, or sexual harassment, the maximum penalty under
9 existing laws shall be imposed. In addition, the offender punished under this section
10 shall be subject to perpetual disqualification to hold public office.

11 *Sec. 28. Administrative Offenses.* – Administrative offenses committed by
12 persons involved in the implementation of this Act shall be subject to administrative
13 penalties in accordance with existing civil service laws, rules and regulations.

14 **ARTICLE VII**

15 **FINAL PROVISIONS**

16 *Sec. 29. Capability Development and Enhancement Program for Training*
17 *Instructors.* – The DND shall, in coordination with the AFP, BFP, BJMP, PCG, PNP,
18 and other government agencies concerned, develop a training program for
19 instructors of the Citizen Army Training Program, Basic and Advanced ROTC
20 Programs, Special National Service Training Program, and the training programs for
21 the Reserve Officers Corps.

22 *Sec. 30. Integration of Existing Reserve Units and Service Corps.* – All
23 reservists in the Reserve Force created under Commonwealth Act No. 1, as
24 amended, and Republic Act No. 7077, as amended, and in the National Service
25 Reserve Corps created under Republic Act No. 9163, otherwise known as the
26 “National Service Training Program (NSTP) of 2001” shall be integrated to the
27 Reserve Officers Corps created under this Act.

28 The DND shall formulate guidelines and procedure for the retrieval, collection,
29 collation and transfer of information and records pertaining to reservists into the
30 Reserve Officers Corps. The DND shall likewise establish guidelines and criteria for
31 determination of the appropriate ranks and designation of reserve officers in the
32 Reserve Officers Corps.

1 Sec. 31. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of
2 the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act
3 following its enactment into law.

4 Sec. 32. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DND shall, in
5 coordination with CHED, DBM, and Technical Education Skills and Development
6 Authority, and in consultation with tertiary-level school associations, promulgate the
7 necessary implementing rules and regulations within thirty (30) days upon the
8 effectivity of this Act.

9 Sec. 33. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid
10 or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision or part not otherwise
11 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

12 Sec. 34. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
13 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation
14 contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed,
15 modified, or amended accordingly.

16 Sec. 35. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
17 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,